

August 2012

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Commission
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Dear Friends,

Many good people with good intentions have given their lives to teaching and learning, including most of my family, yet it seems we simply have not sufficiently moved the needle forward in the area of improving what we call education in Mississippi. As director of the Mississippi Arts Commission, I have the privilege and honor of pondering the connectivity of the arts and education; to ask what role the arts play in learning, community and the schoolhouse. My experience tells me Mississippi began to unceremoniously remove the arts (and P.E.) from the school day about 20 years ago when funding was called into question and testing time became a priority. With all respect to generations of leaders, educators and funders, my perspective is neither a new program to fix education nor a suggestion that the arts are a panacea for our education dilemma. I would merely like to invite a new way of thinking in general for us all, in and out of school. The idea is both simple and complex and lies right here in Mississippi communities and in Mississippi neighborhoods. I call this proposal "Community Learning."

The Southern Educational Foundation report, *Miles to Go*, states that "Mississippi is at a crossroads in education. Education today is the primary engine for the state's economic growth. Small, steady gains in education over time can make a big impact on the Mississippi economy." Simply said, Mississippi needs to create its own innovative workforce; our students must develop the creative skills necessary to compete in a global society. I am confident that part of a successful strategy for this reality can be found in the arts arena and right in our own backyard.

Numerous methods and reports have come and gone in the name of education reform, and still Mississippi is first on every list we want to be last on and last on every list we want to be first on; therefore, an inspiring environment for lifelong learning is imperative in our schools and in our communities. Communities can strengthen, and our education system can benefit, by working together through partnership and collaboration. It is a known fact that the deepest level of learning comes from direct application, and application makes learning relevant to students. Community Learning coordinates the subject being taught in the school curriculum with the message being delivered by the cultural institutions, festivals, and after school activities in the community, so that the schools and the community are on the same page during the approximate same time period. The student begins to feel a sense of community, solidarity, and belonging with supportive resources available in the form of mentors, role models, and experts who matter to the student, reside in their own neighborhood, and speak their own language.

Our communities can nurture local expertise to provide real life learning situations and application opportunities for the PreK-12 schoolhouse, workforce development, and entrepreneurship. Identifying partnerships and implementing small, strategic steps for collaboration can put a Community Learning theory into practice. Ultimately, when the arts and cultural community are in sync with the schools, a low-cost to no-cost teaching/learning partnership is offered to the school system. The arts can then be seen, not as a distraction, but as a compliment and extension to the learning day. Whether it's a charter, magnet, private, parochial, home or extended-day school, it still takes a village to educate the whole child, and all options should be on the table.

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So, Community Learning may very well be the big idea that is too simple to implement or too challenging to understand and appreciate, but I propose that it's an idea certainly worth considering in this climate where we are quick to single out charter or private or home schools as a possibility. Few states could potentially make this concept a reality because of size and numbers, but Mississippi is prized by its citizens for accessibility, networking value and attention to a strong sense of place. This idea does not seek to replace any existing curriculum or programming but rather aims to create a statewide and agreed upon approach to how a community learns together. The arts are what separate us as human; they are what provide us the means to process and understand our world. The more we learn about each other and the world around us, the more we can synchronize for the betterment of our community, our family, our neighbors and the schoolhouse.

My best,
Malcolm

DOCUMENTARY FILM TO BE PRODUCED ON HISTORIC 100 MEN HALL



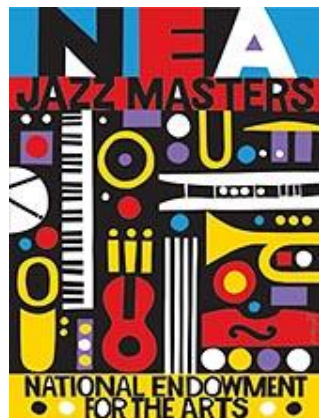
The 100 Men Hall, a non-profit fund of the Hancock Community Development Foundation, will be producing a documentary film on the history of its founding organization, The 100 Members Debating Benevolent Association, as well as the Hall's important role as a stop on the Chitlin' Circuit and events which led to receiving a MS Blues Trail Marker.

The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to provide the organization with a project grant to help make this concept a reality.

This documentary film is critically important for achieving one of the main goals of The 100 Men Hall Board of Directors: to preserve and promote the rich musical and cultural history of The 100 Men Hall. This project will enrich the experience of national and international tourists who visit The Hall, as well as enable additional community interaction through school field trips and tours.

Those who would like to share their memories of activities at The Hall, as well as those who have historic photos and/or memorabilia from the many concerts held there by musical greats including Big Joe Turner, Etta James, Fats Domino and Guitar Slim, are urged to contact Kerrie Loya, 228-342-5770, to set up an appointment. Original material will be photographed and returned upon request. For more information visit the website at

<http://www.100menhall.org/>



Mississippian, Mose Allison, was selected as a 2013 Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts. These fellowships are the highest honor that our government bestows upon jazz musicians and are given in recognition that this art form is one of America's greatest gifts to the world. Congratulations, Mose!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Music in the City

Tuesday, August 14
5:15pm
Mississippi Museum of Art
Jackson

C Spire Summer Music Series Concert

August 17
6:00pm
The Cedars Historic Home
Jackson

"West Side Story"

August 17-19
7:30pm - 2pm on 19th
Parkside Playhouse
Vicksburg

Advanced Sushi Workshop

Tuesday, August 21
5:30pm-7:30
SCHC, Vicksburg, MS

B.B. King Homecoming Festival

Wednesday, August 22
Noon - 9:00 p.m.
B.B. King Museum,
Indianola, MS

Mississippi Community Symphonic Band concert

Friday, August, 25
7 PM
Belhaven Ctr for Arts,
835 Riverside Dr,
Jackson

17th Annual Howlin' Wolf Memorial Blues Festival

August 31
6:00 p.m.
Mary Holmes College
Auditorium, West Point,
MS

To find a complete listing of events or to have your event listed visit

www.arts.state.ms.us/calendar/

MS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND MS SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE COLLABORATION

RIGHT BRAIN, LEFT BRAIN THINKING



A class of high school seniors from the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Mississippi School for Math and Science, representing the state's best and brightest, agreed to come together in the spring 2012 to ponder a topic and collaborate on an idea. The Mississippi Arts Commission created the notion of bringing both sides on the

youthful brain together under one roof and on one topic. The Student Think Center, (www.usm.edu/thinkcenter) located on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, proved to be the perfect environment for inspiring and innovative thought. Instructional designer, Shanna Luke, presented the Design Thinking model (<http://www.usm.edu/lec/tag/design-thinking-model>) to reflect on the recently completed Mississippi Creative Economy study. The process took one semester and two field trips to the USM campus. The collaboration provided the opportunity to come together in small groups made up of students from each school and create an idea for building the creative economy within a community of their choosing. Each group then shared a Prezi presentation to the whole group. The students listened and learned how others process, think and involve themselves in creative problem solving and were given an exclusive look ahead into life after graduation.



Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and current Mississippi and United States Poet Laureate, Natasha Trethewey, will read a few selections of her poetry at Jackson State University on September 20, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in room 166/266 of the Dollye M.E. Robinson College of Liberal Arts Building. This event will be hosted by the Margaret Walker Center at JSU and is free and open to the public. The event at Jackson State is being brought to Mississippi by the Library of Congress along with the Margaret Walker Center, the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Center for the Book, and the National Center for the Book.

Coming In September!

34th Annual Prairie Arts Festival

September 1
All day
West Point, MS

Tennessee Williams Tribute & Tour of Victorian Homes

September 4-9
Rosenzweig Arts Center,
Columbus

Angelica Robinson Gallery Opening

September 6
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Rosenzweig Arts Center,
Columbus Mississippi

CelticFest Mississippi

Sept. 7-9
7pm-12, 10a-12pm,
10:30a-5pm
MS Agricultural and
Forestry Museum,
Jackson MS

21st Annual MS Gulf Coast Blues & Heritage Festival

September 8
County Pavilion
Pascagoula

CALL FOR ARTISTS: Art Fair

ExtraOhrdinaire
September 15 & 16
10 am - 5 pm
Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of
Art, Biloxi, MS

Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival

September 15
Greenville

ATTENTION ROSTER ARTISTS!

SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 12, 2012
9:00AM TO 12NOON

The Mississippi Arts Commission will be presenting a workshop for artists listed in the 2012-2013 Artist Roster Directory and for individuals considering application to the Roster (application deadline March 1, 2013.)

The training will include best practices on:

- Marketing Your Services
- Creating a Promotional Package
- Communicating with Potential Clients

For additional information, contact: Diane Williams, MAC Arts Industry Director, at dwilliams@arts.state.ms.us

The workshop will be held in room 145 of the Woolfolk State Office Building at 501 North West Street in Jackson.



Catch up on past "Mississippi Arts Hour" shows via the Mississippi Public Broadcasting app for iPhone and Android!

It is a great way to tune in and stay mobile!

For more info on downloading the app visit www.mpbonline.org.

CALL TO ARTISTS! *THE BLUE MOON ART PROJECT*

The Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce – Main Street – Tourism Bureau has released criteria for artists' entries in the Blue Moon Art Project Contest held in conjunction with F.E.B. Distributing Company and the 34th Annual Peter Anderson Arts & Crafts Festival.

Artists interested in submitting their work must be residents of Mississippi and 21 years of age or older. Submissions by artists must be sketches in color and reflect the Blue Moon logo in their work. The work should be presented on a 24" (height) x 36" to 40" (width) illustration board or paper mounted on a mat board. Artists should provide their name and contact information on a separate piece of paper temporarily attached to the back of the submission. Only one entry piece per artist allowed, and it must include a title. For more information visit www.oceanspringschamber.com/paf



The Mississippi Arts Hour can be heard statewide on Sunday's at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio. Find the station nearest you by visiting mpbonline.org. The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

Upcoming shows

August 19

Larry Morrissey hosts with visual artist, Lee Washington

August 26

Diane Williams hosts with quilter, Rhonda Blasingame

September 2

Mary Margaret Miller hosts with visual artists, Coulter Fussell and Megan Patton of Yalo Studio

September 9

Malcolm White hosts with visual artist, Martha Ferris

"TO UNDERSTAND
THE WORLD, YOU
MUST FIRST
UNDERSTAND A
PLACE LIKE
MISSISSIPPI."
William Faulkner

2012 WHOLE SCHOOLS SUMMER INSTITUTE



The 2012 Whole Schools Initiative Summer Institute was held July 16-19 at the Mississippi State University Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts in Meridian. This annual professional development opportunity gathered 300 teachers (pre-k through 12 & pre-service), artists, administrators, parents and community arts supporters to learn strategies in arts integration. These workshops and arts experiences allowed attendees to engage with presenters from across Mississippi and throughout the nation.

Highlights included: a conversation and performance with Alice Tan Ridley (America's Got Talent), a presentation by the authors of The ARTS Book, Dr. Linda Whitesitt and Dr. Elda Franklin, workshops by Kennedy Center Teaching Artists, Lenore Blank Kellner and Marcia Daft, and many special events hosted by the Meridian community.

These interactive arts-based lessons will be used in Mississippi classrooms starting immediately this fall to deepen critical thinking skills, support innovative and creative ideas, and nurture communication skills in preparation for a successful college and career experience.

Special thanks to the numerous schools, artists and administrators who attended the WSI Summer Institute. The WSI Summer Institute would not be possible without the support of the Mississippi Department of Education, the Hardin Foundation, the Riley Foundation, VSA Mississippi and the Mississippi State University Riley Center for Education and the Performing Arts.



ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SouthArts

Executive Director

SouthArts is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director.

SouthArts, a nonprofit regional arts organization based in Atlanta, GA, was founded in 1975 to build on the South's unique heritage and enhance the public value of the arts. SouthArts' work responds to the arts environment and cultural trends with a regional perspective.

Please contact Jeanie Duncan at jduncan@ravenconsultinggroup.com with nominations and applications. Further updates will be posted to the website as the search continues over the coming weeks. Visit www.southarts.org for more information.